

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Jerome F. Duluk, Jr.
APPLICATION NO.: REISSUE OF USPN 6,285,378 B1
FILING DATE: HERewith
TITLE: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SPAN AND SUBSPAN SORTING RENDERING
SYSTEM
EXAMINER: UNASSIGNED
GROUP ART UNIT: UNASSIGNED
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 18602-07125

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND
STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.173(c)**

Sir:

Prior to examination of the subject reissue patent application, please add the following new claim:

3. (New) A graphics rendering system, comprising:
- a plurality of addressable memory storage bits, each said storage bit for storing a data bit, said memory storage bits arranged into a plurality of words;
 - an input circuit providing an input comprising a plurality of input bits matching some of said data bits so as to have a one-to-one bit correspondence to said data bits;
 - a comparator circuit comparing said plurality of input bits to data bits in all said words, said comparator circuit making comparisons such that each said data bit is compared to its corresponding input bit, and said comparator circuit

generating a query result for each said word which query results has a first state when all said data bits within said word which are compared to one of said input bits match each corresponding input bit, and a second state when said bits do not match;

a memory storage storing a flag bit generated from said query result for each of said words;

a counter circuit for each said word, said counter circuit being conditionally incremented according to said flag bit, the counter used to indicate a position in an ordered list; and

a circuit locating the smallest value in the counter circuits.